

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 /069 W

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P R 291824Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3594

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 25162

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, SP, FR

SUBJECT: SPANISH EXECUTIONS: OFFICIAL FRENCH

COMMENT ON SPANISH EXECUTIONS

REF: PARIS 25059

1. GOF SPOKESMAN AFTERNOON SEPTEMBER 29 INDIRECTLY
CONFIRMED GOVERNMENT'S EMBARRASSMENT OVER CRITICISM
BEING LEVELED AGAINST ITS SLOWNESS AND MODERATION IN
REACTING TO SPANISH EXECUTIONS (REFTEL) BY ISSUING
FOLLOWING RATHER UNUSUAL "OFFICIAL COMMENT."

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2. INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF TEXT FOLLOWS: "THE FRENCH

GOVERNMENT AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC ARE AS SENSITIVE AS OTHER WESTERN GOVERNMENTS TO THE RECENT EVENTS IN SPAIN. THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT HAS ASSOCIATED ITSELF WITH A DEMARCHE BY THE COUNTRIES OF THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY AND HAS ALSO MADE A BILATERAL DEMARCHE. THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT HAS NOT CEASED TO SEARCH FOR THE MOST EFFECTIVE HUMANITARIAN APPROACH IN THIS MATTER. THE FACT THAT FRANCE AND SPAIN ARE NEIGHBORS HAS FURTHER INCREASED FRANCE'S INTEREST IN MAKING AN IMPACT. THIS EXPLAINS THE HIGH DEGREE OF GOF'S DISCREETNESS TO MAXIMIZE CHANCES OF SUCCESS. FOLLOWING THE EXECUTIONS THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT REACTED ON TWO LEVELS' THE EMOTIONAL AND THE DIPLOMATIC. ON THE FORMER, THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC IS NOT INDIFFERENT TO THESE EXECUTIONS. ON THE DIPLOMATIC LEVEL, THE PROBLEM MUST BE CONSIDERED SERENELY AND CAUTIOUSLY SINCE IN THIS DOMAIN IT IS NOT ONLY THE RAPIDITY OF REACTIONS WHICH COUNTS."

3. IN COURSE BRIEF DISCUSSION SITUATION THIS AFTERNOON, ROBIN, ELYSEE COUNSELOR FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, CONFIRMED THIS THEME TO POLCOUNS AND EMBOFF. ROBIN THOUGHT GISCARD WOULD ACT WITH SOME FIRMNESS IN FACE "ENRAGED" PUBLIC OPINION. ON THE OTHER HAND HE WILL TRY NOT TO COMPROMISE IRREPARABLY FRENCH RELATIONS WITH (AND LARGE POLITICAL INVESTMENT IN) SPAIN.
RUSH

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06 JUL 2006

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